

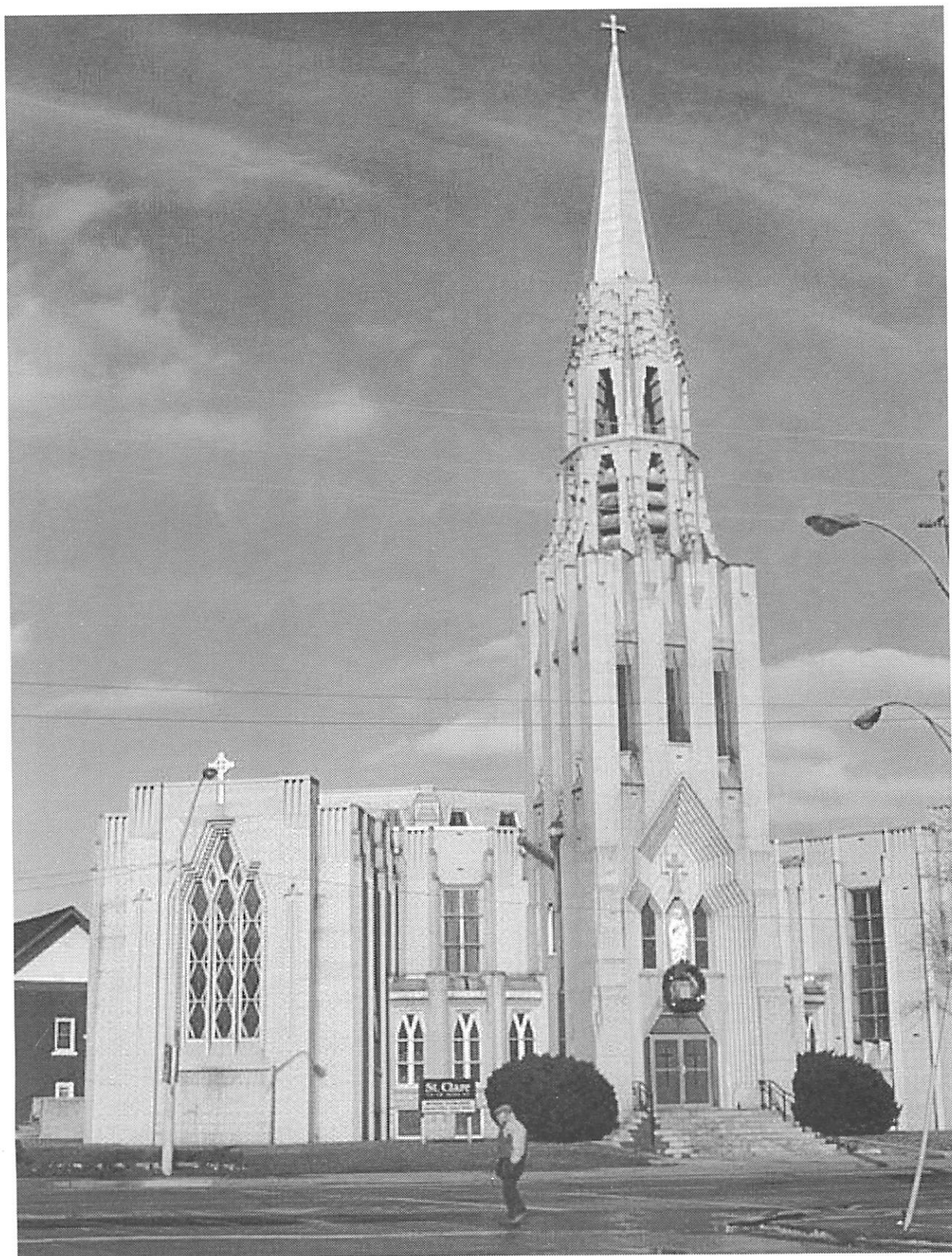
ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

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Spring



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ACORN

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to preserve buildings and
structures of
architectural merit and
places of natural beauty or
interest**

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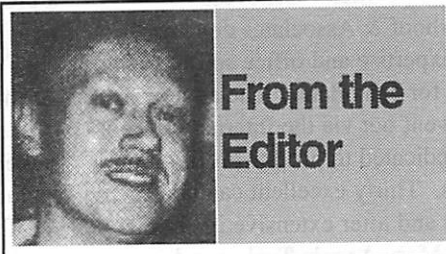
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**From the
Editor**

*I like the silent church before the service
begins, better than any preaching.*

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

*If there are Anglican rectors in charge of
early nineteenth-century churches who do
not believe their particular church ever had
a central pulpit, let them lift the carpet and
examine the floorboards. ... If there are
Roman Catholic bishops ordering the
destruction of high altars, let them pause:
structures, as well as exhortation, have
helped mankind toward the "peace of God,
which passeth all understanding."*

– Marion MacRae and Anthony Adamson,
*from Hallowed Walls: Church Architecture
of Upper Canada, 1975*

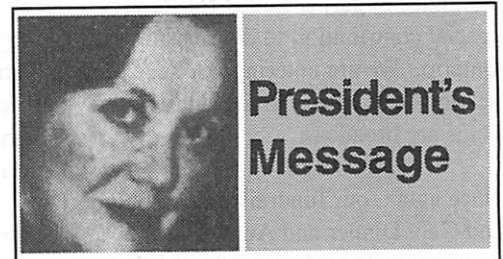
In this issue, the first of the new century,
we continue our series looking at his-
toric church architecture in Ontario.
What to do with "silent churches," the kind
where the preaching, at least of the original
variety, has stopped forever? Michael
Keefe, in his account of surplus church
buildings in Brant, gives many examples of
how that question has been answered there
– some more happily than others. He also
explores why so many churches are
"unwanted." As Evelyn McLean tells us in
her article on St. Clare of Assisi Church, a
similar fate was about to befall Windsor's
magnificent Art Deco church until....

* * * * *

As she makes way for her successor, I
would like to pay credit to our outgoing
President, Mary Angela Tucker. Mary
Angela has led the ACO through a busy and
sometimes difficult time of significant
change to the organization. Her commit-
ment and enthusiasm for the ACO and the
cause of heritage conservation in Ontario is
unquestioned. She has shown unfailing

support to ACORN and to me personally.
Church architecture is of special interest to
Mary Angela and this issue is dedicated to
her.

Dan Schneider



**President's
Message**

This is my final President's Message.
It is especially meaningful to me to
write it in the second issue of
ACORN dedicated to our religious architec-
ture – a subject particularly dear to me.

Through the centuries, the Church has been
a major contributor to new architectural
styles. In the cities, towns and rural com-
munities of Ontario we have examples of
the elaborate and of the humble in religious
structures, influenced by the designs of the
past. Often, the religious buildings are the
most eminent of a community. The symbol
of people in celebration of their faith, the
local church represents inspiration and aspi-
ration.

Sadly, today too many of our churches are
threatened with inappropriate intervention,
closure or demolition. While we can appre-
ciate the challenges associated with main-
taining or reusing redundant religious struc-
tures, successful efforts have been made and
can be made to incorporate these buildings
into the life of the community in ways that
respect their social and cultural significance.

Thanks to Editor Dan Schneider for initiat-
ing this most welcome series. In Chatham
and elsewhere it will prove helpful and
informative to those of us who have occa-
sion to speak for the conservation of our
religious architecture.

This year has been pivotal in the develop-
ment of the ACO. The Executive and
Council revisited the Genovese Vanderhoof
Study, met with Margaret Genovese and
proceeded with some major restructuring of

the organization. We created a new position, and hired Patricia Neal as Office Manager. Our first Policy and Procedures Manual is to be printed soon. The By-Law revision is complete and will be presented at the upcoming AGM. The Advisory Board continues to garner kudos for its very special contribution to conservation in Ontario. We are entering our second year on line, where HALP and related items are broadcast.

Once again, our fundraising campaign and Gala Dinner and Auction were successes. Branch projects and the unceasing efforts of our members ensure that the challenge of architectural conservation in Ontario will continue to be met. Finally, as members of the Ontario Heritage Alliance, we join together with our colleague organizations across Ontario to further our common bond on behalf of the rich legacy that is our cultural heritage.

From April 14-16, we look forward to meeting together at Main Street Storeys, our Conference 2000 and Annual General Meeting in Port Hope. There we will welcome in our new President and Executive.

To all of you, past and present – the Executive, Council, Branches, Advisory Board, ACORN Editor and Assistant, Office Manager, volunteers, Ministry Liaison and staff, colleagues in heritage, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Best wishes to all and au revoir!

Mary Angela Tucker

Council News

New Office Manager

As part of the strategic planning undertaken in June 1999 with Margaret Genovese, the ACO Council decided to create an Office

Manager position. Genovese Vanderhoof & Associates donated their time, expertise and office space to search for candidates. The advertisement went out via the Internet on web sites dedicated to not-for-profit organizations. Thirty excellent candidates replied and after extensive interviewing by Mary Angela Tucker and Turney Wong with the assistance of Eric Ojala, a partner with Genovese Vanderhoof, the ACO offered the position to Patricia Neal.

Patricia comes highly qualified and was formerly with the City of Vaughan as Manager, Heritage Resources Division. She has worked with all levels of government, volunteer boards, and a number of LACACs over the years. She has served in an administrative capacity to both municipal and volunteer organizations. Pat started in November 1999 and has already proved herself by improving the office and organizing the members' database both for mailing and for charitable donations/receipts. The ACO welcomes Pat and looks forward to working with her.

Mainstreet Newmarket Charrette

Masha Etkind, member of the ACO Executive, and professor at Ryerson's Department of Architectural Science and Landscape Architecture, and her students held a charrette on October 23, 1999 with the Town of Newmarket. The purpose of the charrette was to formulate new ideas and propose some new urban design and architectural solutions for the changes to take place in the historic downtown.

The main goal was to suggest ways for redevelopment of the historic main street and to facilitate the economic rejuvenation of downtown while maintaining its historical significance.

A charrette is usually a weekend effort of 30 students, who under professional guidance of Ryerson faculty members and local experts become familiar with

a problem and suggest possible alternatives for changes.

At the end of the weekend the outcome of the Newmarket charrette was presented to a professional jury, which included Edna Hudson, President of the Toronto Branch. A document summarizing the results of the effort is presently being prepared for publication and will be placed on the ACO Web Site shortly.

The Mayor of Newmarket, Tom Taylor, accomplished many things in conducting such a study. First, it exposed Newmarket and the surrounding townships to the importance of the history of the area and in particular to having a vibrant main street. Second it provided the students a chance to work on existing problems and come up with solutions. In doing so, it gave them a sense of the importance of protecting historic structures.

Finally, the holding of such a charrette sets an example for other communities to follow. If there are ACO members who know of other towns wanting this service this year, please contact Masha Etkind, at 416-979-5000 ext 6503 or e-mail: metkind@acs.ryerson.ca.

Mary Glendinning

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Sunday April 18, 1999
Old Courthouse, London

Mary Angela Tucker, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed some 40 members to the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. The President asked for the approval of the agenda. It was moved by Pat Malicki and seconded by Bob Harrison that the agenda be adopted. CARRIED.

1998 Minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the 1998 Annual General Meeting, which were circulated to members in the Spring 1999 issue of ACORN. It was moved by Terry Foord and seconded by Rob Hamilton that the minutes of the 1998 Annual General Meeting be accepted as circulated. CARRIED.

Business Arising

Dan Schneider, Chair of the By-law Review Committee, gave an overview of the work done to date. He and Alison Brown were asked to review the By-law at the Belleville AGM in 1997. At the 1998 AGM in Toronto, the Committee gave an interim report. In June 1998, the committee presented and tabled their report on revising the By-law. The next step will be to redraft the existing By-law to update a number of areas, reduce awkwardness and make it more readable. Among the areas that need to be addressed are the roles of the ACO officers and executive, head office relationship to the branches and the election process. Council has agreed and appointed an expanded committee comprising Dan Schneider, Alison Brown, Terry Foord, and Marcia Cuthbert. It was moved by Anne McKillop and seconded by Kathryn McGarry to accept the By-law Review Committee Report.

Nomination and Election of Officers

Mary Robinson Ramsay moved that the South Bruce Grey Branch coordinate a review of the nomination and election procedures. The rationale for this is that it would meet the requirement of the motion from the 1998 AGM that members should receive notice of the slate of officers at least a month before the AGM. It would guide the nominating committee, and it would become another section in the proposed Policies and Procedures Manual. Rob Hamilton seconded this. CARRIED.

President's Report

Mary Angela Tucker congratulated Alison Brown, President of the London

Branch, for the work involved in arranging the conference, dinner, tours and AGM. Chris Borgal was thanked for organizing the excellent speakers and Chris Andrae and Mike Baker for planning and guiding the tours.

Mary Angela summarized the ACO's activities for 1998. The Advisory Board, chaired by Phil Carter and administered by Paul Dilse, Consulting Heritage Manager, has completed a record number of visits and reports. This last year saw the ACO celebrate the birth of Eric Arthur, one of our illustrious founders. Special thanks go to Alec Keefer and members of TRAC for planning and organizing this event. Margaret Goodbody and her committee did an excellent job of arranging the Anniversary Gala Dinner.

The Street Smarts Program, in which the ACO collaborates with the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Heritage Canada, visited 15 communities with Stephen Lauer and Alec Keefer delivering the seminars.

The ACORN Production Team published two issues of ACORN in 1998. Under the direction of the Publications Committee, the team is planning three issues in 1999. Appreciation goes to Editor Dan Schneider and Assistant Editor Sharon Vattay. Special thanks to Catherine Ramsey who did the layout in the past and to her son, Russ Jubenville, who laid out the Spring issue.

The President expressed her appreciation for the support of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation for the Operating Grant support and the Summer Experience Grant providing valuable assistance to the ACO.

In closing, Mary Angela Tucker congratulated the Branches, now ten plus, and all the hundreds of volunteers who contributed their time, expertise and financial support to the cause of conservation of Ontario's significant buildings and landscapes.

It was moved by Catherine Nasmith and seconded by Kathryn McGarry to receive the President's Report. CARRIED.

Financial Report

Turney Wong, Treasurer, presented the audited financial statements. She thanked the Branch Treasurers for the work they did in getting information to her to ensure that the audit was completed on a timely basis. New to the members this year were the Statement of Changes in Fund Balances and the Statement of Changes in Financial Position.

Interesting items highlighted were an increase in membership fees, and the sale of the Sheave Tower land which netted the ACO \$127,600.

Turney then presented the proposed budget for 1999. She answered questions from the floor on projected expenditures – ACORN will be publishing three issues, the audit fee includes bookkeeping, and the Bieniewski Fund will be replenished in 1999. Edna Hudson requested that the Eric Arthur Colloquium and the Gala Dinner revenue and expenses be kept separate. There was a recommendation from Mary Robinson Ramsay that the Branches submit budgets as well. It was moved by Bob Harrison, seconded by Anne McKillop, that the financial statements to December 31, 1998 and the 1999 budget be received. CARRIED.

Consulting Heritage Manager's Report

Paul Dilse presented the highlights of his report for the year ended December 31, 1998. The Advisory Board completed 14 projects. Telephone inquiries were handled over and above this in which advice was given. Two projects developed a life of their own – Melville White Church and Wilton Methodist Church. Another, Chiefswood Museum, has in place procedures for processing donations for it by Heritage Cambridge. A condensed version of the 1998 workshop "Raising

Capital Funds to Support Heritage Conservation" is now on the ACO Web Site. The fundraising campaign brought in \$25,885 from individuals and \$650 from corporate support. It was moved by Peter Smith and seconded by Terry Foord that the Report of the Consulting Heritage Manager be received. CARRIED. Pat Malicki thanked Paul for all the work he has done on behalf of the ACO.

Web Site

Leah Wallace set up a demonstration of the Web Site she has been working on since January. She asked all members present to come and try it and to give constructive comments for improvements before it goes on the Internet. Robert Miller had set up the computer and was assisting members to walk through the menu. Leah will manage the Web Site until her contract ends, then Council must decide who will look after it for the longer term. Presently, there is branch information, a building at risk on HALP, membership form, and a description of what the ACO is. In the future, the site will feature Advisory Board Reports, ACORN articles, and a list of both executive and branch members. It was moved by Steven Robinson and seconded by Dan Schneider that the report on the Web Site be accepted. CARRIED.

Historic Architecture Linking Program

Alan Seymour asked the membership to read the article on HALP in the Winter 1998 issue of ACORN to find out about the program and urged the branches to come forward with buildings at risk. Pat Malicki moved acceptance of this report, seconded by Rob Hamilton. CARRIED.

Approval of Actions of Provincial Council in Last Term

Julia Beck moved the approval of actions of Provincial Council in 1998, seconded by Rob Hamilton. CARRIED.

Appointment of Auditors

Turney Wong moved that the firm of Lynch Rutherford Tozer be appointed auditors for the coming year and that Council be authorized to fix their remuneration. Kathryn McGarry seconded the motion. CARRIED.

Clearly Defined Duties of the Provincial Executive

It was moved by Mary Robinson Ramsay and seconded by Peter Smith that the duties of the Provincial Executive be clearly defined so that:

- a) in this era of very busy people, the job of any one person is not too onerous;
- b) people know exactly what they are responsible for; and
- c) it will be easier for people to take on a position, knowing exactly what is expected of them.

The draft proposal should be finalized for approval at the May Provincial Council Meeting and carried forward to the Policies and Procedures Manual. CARRIED.

Student Grant to compile the Policy and Procedures Manual

Mary Robinson Ramsay moved acceptance of a motion to apply for a student grant to put together a Policy and Procedures Manual. Seconded by Steven Robinson. CARRIED.

Travel Allowance

Julia Beck expressed concern for Executive/Council members coming from a distance to attend meetings. She moved that Council give serious consideration to setting up an allowance for this purpose, seconded by Pat Malicki. CARRIED.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Terry Foord, Chair, presented the proposed slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for 1999-2000 as follows:

- President - Mary Angela Tucker
- Senior Vice-President - Pat Malicki
- 2nd Vice President - Christopher Borgal
- 3rd Vice President - Robert Fair
- Treasurer - Turney Wong
- Secretary - Mary Glendinning

Member-at-Large - Mell Chapple
Member-at-Large - David Cuming
Member-at-Large - Masha Etkind
Member-at-Large - Diane McCormick
Member-at-Large - Kathy Smith
Member-at-Large - Scott Valens
Member-at-Large - Maggie Whalley
It was moved by Terry Foord and seconded by Anne McKillop that the proposed slate of officers for 1999-2000 be approved. CARRIED.

Other Business

Mary Robinson Ramsay announced that the South BruceGrey Branch had received news of \$29,500 funding for the Victoria Jubilee Hall Project's Phase II renovations from the Canada Millennium Fund.

The President moved the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Mary Glendinning
Secretary

The end of an era in Hamilton – Nina Chapple retires

As a long-standing active member of the ACO, Nina Chapple is well-known to members of both the provincial organization and local branch. The Hamilton Region Branch Executive would therefore like to inform the membership at large of her December 31 retirement as Senior Architectural Historian/Heritage Planner for the City of Hamilton, a position which she held for 20 years

December 1999 must surely have been the most frantically paced of Nina's working life as she raced to wrap up a myriad of projects and leave the Heritage Planning library in some semblance of order (with time lost to a bad bout of the flu).

After graduating with an M.A. in Architectural History from Harvard University and being awarded a

Fulbright Scholarship to study Architectural Conservation in Munich, Germany, Nina began her distinguished career in the architectural conservation field with three years as a heritage planner for the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

Born and raised in West Hartford, Connecticut, Nina settled with her husband Gerald Chapple (a Hamilton native and Harvard graduate) in Dundas, Ontario in the late 1960s, purchasing and restoring the charming 1850s stone cottage that is still their home today. While starting a family, Nina pursued her career first on a part-time basis, completing photographic surveys in Ancaster and Dundas for the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building. From 1980 to 1985 she worked in the Department of Culture and Recreation (initially on a part-time basis), occupying space in the basement of Whitehern (the dignified stone mansion owned by the City and operated as a house museum), which she shared each summer with a flock of students hired as research assistants. By the time I came on board as her full-time assistant in 1985, she had already amassed an impressive quantity of research on individual landmark buildings, neighbourhoods and historic streetscapes (an extremely valuable resource to this day).

The following year we were moved up to the seventh floor of City Hall, our new home in the Planning and Development Department – not initially a welcome move from my perspective, preferring the peaceful atmosphere and privacy of the historic mansion (even though our basement quarters left much to be desired). Nina, on the other hand, embraced the move as an opportunity and challenge, immediately seeing that we would be much better positioned on the front lines of the Planning Department to successfully champion the cause of heritage conservation within a municipal bureaucracy. From 1986 to her recent retirement she worked tirelessly and enthusiastically on an ever-expanding range of issues and projects within the broad

scope of "heritage planning." For most of the past decade, Nina headed a three-woman team (the Golden Era!) responsible for a myriad of tasks: providing staff support for the Hamilton LACAC and its sub-committees, undertaking research for designating individual buildings and districts under the OHA, creating and enlarging various inventories of heritage resources, implementing heritage funding and plaquing programs, undertaking special heritage studies and projects, responding to all manner of heritage-related enquiries, etc. Among Nina's many personal achievements, her strong supporting role for the Hamilton LACAC cannot be overemphasized. With her professional expertise, unswerving commitment, strategic planning skills,



*Nina Chapple and husband Gerry at December 1999 retirement banquet
photo: Ann Gillespie*

broad knowledge and vision, fighting spirit, and instant recall abilities (to name only a few of her many strengths), Nina was unquestionably LACAC's guiding light and driving force. She always managed to provide its members with the background information and professional advice needed for the committee to make informed and intelligent recommendations to City Council. Forever willing to run the extra mile, Nina helped the committee enormously to fulfill its mandate as effectively as possible (given, of course, its limitations as an advisory committee to Council). Thanks in large part to her guidance and support, for example, the Hamilton LACAC has achieved a relatively high degree of success in preserving the historic urban fabric of Hamilton's downtown core. Particular success stories

for which she (along with the citizen volunteers and aldermen on LACAC) deserve much credit include: the saving and adaptive re-use of such landmarks as the Bank of Montreal, the Pigott Building, Custom House, the former Hamilton Public Library, and the former St. Mark's Church (just sold by the City for continued use as a place of worship). Finally, I must mention her last truly heroic feat: completing an application to the Millennium Partnership Program for funding to restore the historic manor house, outbuildings and landscape features comprising the 1850s mountain estate of Isaac Buchanan (known as Auchmar): a six-day marathon to meet a deadline unexpectedly moved from March 31, 2000 to November 30, 1999!

With the loss of one position in 1998 and Nina's retirement in 1999, the heritage planning functions for the City of Hamilton are temporarily being carried out by one heritage planner, myself – with a great deal of much appreciated help from my colleagues in the new Community Planning Department as well as LACAC and its Research Subcommittee, and support when needed from the ACO Hamilton Region Branch. A daunting task but we owe it to Nina to make our very best effort, even in these tough times of municipal restructuring, to continue to build on her legacy.

Nina was honoured at a retirement banquet in December, held for the four retirees from the former Planning and Development Department. However, in recognition of her contributions to the heritage conservation field both at and beyond the local level, a public celebration is being planned for the spring (details yet to be announced). In the meantime, we would like to congratulate Nina on a job exceptionally well done and offer her our best wishes for the future. While she is very much enjoying a well-earned retirement from civil service (her captivating smile is even bigger these days!), we don't expect her to disappear from the conservation scene. She has indicated an

interest in continuing to work in the field (at a less gruelling pace) as a heritage consultant and freelance writer, even if she has so far declined to join the Hamilton LACAC as a citizen volunteer!

Ann Gillespie

Branch Reports

TORONTO (TRAC)

Tour of Branksome Hall

Last September we enjoyed a walk of Branksome Hall and more than 50 members turned out. Branksome Hall is a private girls' school situated in Rosedale, as it has been since 1910. Today the school owns several properties. The best known is Glenhurst, the first house built in Rosedale. It was constructed by the owner of the park lot, Edgar Jarvis, in about 1864. Over the years, the school has made many architectural alterations and additions to their properties to adapt them to school purposes. We were privileged to look around that Saturday afternoon, and took much delight in what we saw. A feature added to the walk by popular request was a pamphlet describing the properties, which appeared to be well appreciated.

The Concourse Building

The Richmond-Adelaide Centre has occupied much of our energies since then. We brought out an edition of our ACT newsletter in November, featuring the Concourse Building, which is part of the Centre and threatened with demolition. The newsletter was distributed widely, including to all ACO members, and placed on the ACO Web Site. We do thank all who wrote letters and made calls in response. This helped to raise the profile of the issue among the decision-makers.

The situation is ongoing. As I write the Toronto Preservation Board has scheduled an emergency meeting, as the owner claims he has made alterations to his plans. The previous set of plans

were met with a resolve by the LACAC (at the time the Board of Heritage Toronto) to preserve the Concourse Building.

We promise to keep on telling them how we see things! We feel that the Concourse is an outstanding example of Art Deco architecture and every effort made to preserve the original fabric is worthwhile. As it stands at the moment the building is an example of poor renovation practices, which have resulted in false ceilings throughout. This is a dastardly trick to play on a fine building, for while many architects would notice as soon as they enter the building, few of the rest of us would. The building is simply less comfortable to work in, somehow awkward and oppressive – because the ceilings are low. Such a shoddy, quick, least cost renovation approach should never be carried out on a designated building.

Several of our members are busy with volunteer LACAC work in Toronto this year and we wish them well. Fortunately there is a constant invitation to enlarge one's interests in and knowledge of fine architecture!

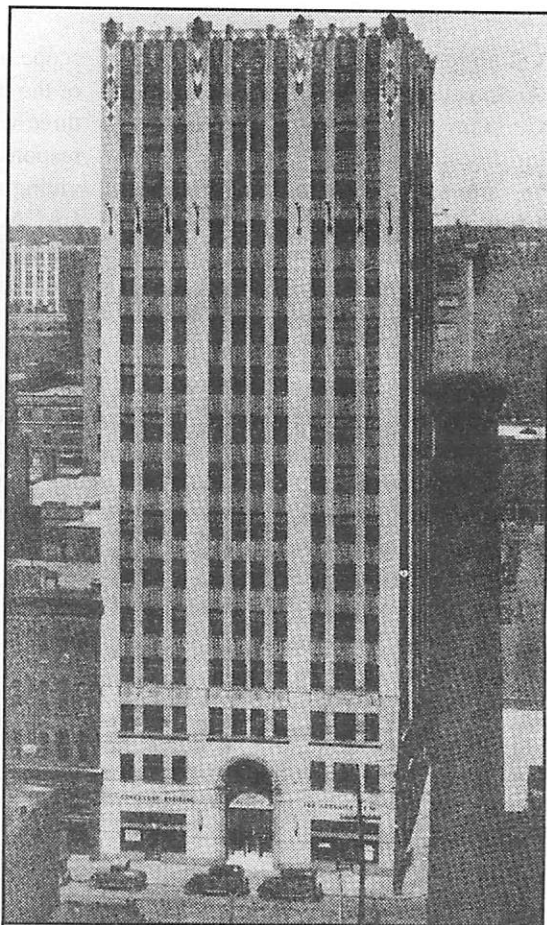
Edna Hudson

SOUTH BRUCE GREY

What to do about those surplus town halls?

As municipal restructuring takes place in Bruce and Grey Counties, many towns and villages are suddenly finding themselves with town halls abandoned by the newly organized municipal governments. These governing bodies either have more buildings than they now need, or else rush to create a new identity by constructing new municipal offices.

In any case the future is not clear for a number of buildings that have been



The Concourse Building, Toronto, in 1929
photo courtesy of Edna Hudson

central to the communities for as long as anyone can remember. A case in point is the Paisley Town Hall, which is 125 years old and sits proudly on the banks of the Saugeen River, across from an historic fire tower. It was designated a heritage building in 1976, and during the late 1980s underwent extensive restoration under the guidance of Napier B. Simpson (the architect died in a plane crash before the project was completed). The restoration project created a reception hall to act as a complement to the larger performance space upstairs. The community is now divided as to who should operate the building and what the focus should be.

There are happier scenarios. In places like Dundalk, the government of the restructured municipality has agreed to continue supporting the 100 year-old town hall, while the local Lions Club and little theatre group look after it.

How long will any group of volunteers be able to sustain their efforts? How much fundraising will be necessary? How much time will people be able to devote? Do they know the enormity of what they are taking on? And how much harder will the task be if a community has been divided in what it believes is best for the building and for the town?

In the short term getting rid of a town hall may appear to offer financial savings to a municipality, but from a community-building and heritage preservation standpoint it can be a very questionable move.

Mary Robinson Ramsay

WATERLOO REGION

The Waterloo County Jail

The North Waterloo Region Branch has been involved with other groups, such as the Friends of the Gaol, in trying to promote the preservation of this fine original county building and the later Victorian Governor's House for many years. This, the first in a series of articles on the jail, outlines the background of the property and the first step to its preservation – the creation of a Millennium Garden.

The Waterloo County Jail and the Governor's House is in the centre of Kitchener – and in the centre of controversy. For the past ten years, almost from the day that the jail closed in September 1978, officials at all levels of local government, conservationists, and a concerned public have debated what the future of the buildings should be.

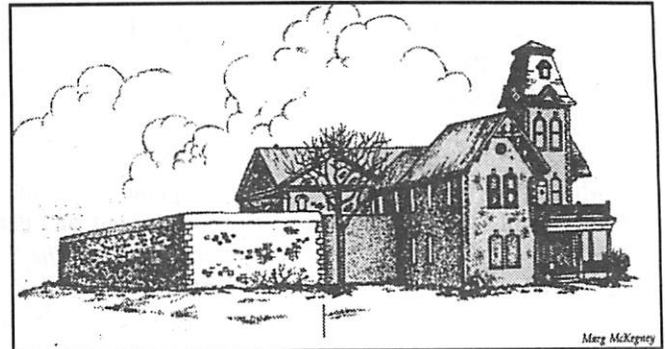
The past of the buildings is well known. One of the first actions of the Provisional Council of the new County of Waterloo in 1852 was to award a contract for £4,875 to a Brantford firm to build a court house and jail in Berlin (Kitchener). The land on East Weber Street was donated by Frederick Gaukel, a prosperous hotel owner who had been a resident in Berlin for

almost 20 years. With great ceremony, the buildings were opened on January 21, 1853, and for 125 years the court house and jail were a symbol of the judicial independence of the County of Waterloo. Previous to 1852, the people in the area that became Waterloo County (containing the Townships of Waterloo, Woolwich, Wilmot, Wellesley, and North Dumfries) had been obliged to settle legal disputes and confine prisoners in a succession of court houses and jails outside its boundaries.

Conservationists and historians agree that the architectural and historical significance of the Waterloo County Jail and Governor's House justifies their preservation. The jail is a two-storey, well-proportioned building of squared fieldstone, with stone and brick trim, together with a large yard enclosed by a high stone wall. The Governor's (or Warden's) House, dated about 1877, is a good example of mid-Victorian Italianate design, constructed of red brick with yellow brick trim, and featuring a tower with a mansard roof and dormer windows. The original court house was razed in 1968 and replaced by a modern building.

The City of Kitchener saved the jail from destruction in 1980 by designating it as a historical structure. This decision was confirmed in 1981 by the Ontario Conservation Review Board following a challenge by the Region of Waterloo. The Region, which as owners and inheritors of both the Waterloo County buildings has responsibility for their historical continuity, had been forced to revise its plan to demolish the buildings and create one more parking lot in downtown Kitchener.

Various proposals for conversion of the buildings have been examined by the Region and rejected. Finally, in early



Waterloo County Jail and Governor's House, Waterloo
illustration: Marg McKegney

December 1999, the Council for the Region of Waterloo approved in principle the redevelopment of the Waterloo County Jail for courtrooms and office space for the Provincial Offences program. In addition, council granted approval to restore the Governor's House as a millennium project for regional offices, historical displays and/or community uses. Councillors also approved the creation of a Courtyard Millennium Garden in a former prison yard. It is this third project, the millennium interpretative garden, that involves the support and participation of heritage groups and neighbourhood associations.

To support an application for provincial millennium funding through the Main Street Ontario program, several heritage groups and neighbourhood associations officially formed the umbrella organization called The Friends of the Gaol. The name is attributed to Kitchener Councillor Jean Haalboom, who, for the past decade, has advocated adaptive re-use of the jail complex. Last summer, Councillor Haalboom initiated community involvement in a proposal for a Millennium Garden project. Several groups wrote letters of support for the application to the Millennium Selection and Steering Committee of the City of Kitchener. In late September, the Committee awarded \$30,000 for the Courtyard Millennium Garden, to be matched by funds and in-kind donations by the Friends of the Gaol. The Friends have accepted the challenge of creating the millennium garden! The choice of native plants in

the courtyard and extension of walkways and green space will beautify the streetscape along Queen Street North; interpretative plaques will commemorate the history of the jail and the prisoners who served their sentences during 125 years of the jail's operation.

Marg Rowell

QUINTE

Annual Meeting

On January 16, 2000 the Branch hosted its Annual General Meeting. As in 1999, it was held at the Belleville Scout and Guide Museum, located on the grounds of Sir James Whitney School. In keeping with Quinte Branch tradition, the highlight of the meeting was an outstanding guest speaker (I must admit some difficulty in finding new ones each year, particularly after the previous two years' Ron Brown and Frank Kershaw).

This year's speaker, kindly arranged by Mrs. A.K. Sculthorpe of Port Hope, was Don Mikel, who gave a knowledgeable presentation on the Gothic Revival and its influence on Ontario architecture. Mr. Mikel spoke to approximately 50 interested members and was both highly entertaining and informative. His slide show covered a wide variety of Ontario buildings and included a good number of Quinte area examples. The Belleville City Hall is perhaps the best example of this architectural style. An added bonus was that the meeting was given coverage in The Belleville Intelligencer the following week.

The annual meeting also featured the election of the Branch executive for 2000 as follows:

President - Dan Atkinson
1st Vice-President - David Bentley
2nd Vice-President - Claude Arseneault
Secretary - Mary Jones
Treasurer - Olive Root
Membership - Tony Darling
Publicity - Bob Hintz

HASPE Files

One project that is still in progress, but has been making excellent headway since the fall, is the scanning of the HASPE files. These documents were originally assembled by Tom Cruikshank and Peter Stokes, served as the basis for *The Settler's Dream*, and are a wonderful compilation of the early architecture in the County. The current worker on the project has been doing yeoman's work on the 50 or so three-ring binders and we hopefully will be finished by the end of this year.

Walking Tours

Castleton/Vernonville – April 18

Another of our planned "different" tours. This tour started in the quaint village of Castleton, notable for its general store and old clapboard feed mill, and proceeded to the Red Cloud Cemetery, renowned as the site of one of the last remaining areas of Prairie Grassland in southern Ontario. We then went on to Vernonville, site of a beautiful New England-style church, St. Andrew's, circa 1862, set against a picturesque backdrop of a treed hillside. One of the tour highlights was a visit to the recently refurbished Vernonville General Store, circa 1867.

Watertown – May 16

Watertown is not normally associated with historic or interesting architecture but this trip apparently dispelled that notion. Our group was treated to a tour of homes of a number of different architectural styles ranging from Greek Revival to Second Empire and Queen Anne. The photos that I saw certainly gave me a different view of Watertown – to the extent that my wife thinks we should pay a return visit. Anyone travelling in that area would be well advised to stop in and have a look.

Waupoos – June 20

Once again, this was an informative and interesting tour of an area previously visited by our group but worthy of more attention. Organized by Doug Parker, the tour covered a number of interesting buildings along the road through Waupoos, including a visit to the Apple Basket Inn (a bed and break-

fast and home of the County Cider Company) and the wonderful stone house of the owners, the Howes family, who kindly allowed us access to their home.

Wellington – July 18

This was another re-visit but certainly worth the time. Organized by Bob Hintz, this tour took us from the United Church in the centre of the village through several buildings on our way to the eastern end of the village at Tara Hall, before making our way back to the Devonshire Inn, a bed and breakfast establishment, for refreshments.

North Shore Lake Consecon – August 15

Another "different" tour, this was organized by Ernie Margetson, who went to the trouble of arranging for haywagons for those in attendance. We saw a number of heritage homesteads that otherwise would have been passed by or ignored because of the location – one of the reasons we like to visit out-of-the-way places. Among the properties visited was the Henderson/Dulmage Cottage of circa 1845, the Poste/Zufelt House (Lakeview Cottage) of circa 1835 and the Poste/Cruikshank House, circa 1840.

Kingston Churches – September 19

Organized by David Bentley and led by Professor Brian Osborne of Queen's University and the Kingston Historical Society, along with members of the various congregations, this tour visited five churches throughout the downtown – St. George's Anglican, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, St. Mary's Roman Catholic, St. Paul's Anglican and the Congregationalist Church. The tour was a challenge for those not used to walking long distances as it covered quite a few blocks in the downtown core, but the weather co-operated and we were afforded an excellent opportunity to be guided by a person with an in-depth knowledge of his subject, not to mention a dry wit. The tour finished at a somewhat different locale than usual – the Kingston Brew Pub.

Bath – October 17

While it seemed not that long ago that we paid a visit to this delightful village, the recent restoration efforts at the Fairfield-Gutzeit House warranted another visit for a closer look at this historic property as well a visit to some of the buildings missed on our previous tour, including St. John's Anglican Church, 1925; Bath United, circa 1849; the Caroline Fairfield House, circa 1820; and the William Burley House, circa 1855. While it was a cool, blustery fall day, the tour was nevertheless a success, capably led by long-time member Cynthia Flavell and finishing with a close look at the restoration work at the Gutzeit House, while we partook of refreshments.

Glenora – November 21

How many of us have taken the Glenora Ferry and marvelled at the spectacular sight of the old Grist Mill set against the towering cliffs of Adolphus Reach. Originally known as Stone Mills, this was one of the earliest settlements in Prince Edward and we thought that a visit here would offer us a different perspective on the heritage of the county. Led by Doug Parker, we were rewarded with a visit inside the magnificently restored Store House (formerly the Glen House Hotel), accompanied by a talk from Court Noxon, who has been researching the history of the Van Alstine family, and a tour of the partially restored Van Alstine Mill, circa 1806. Also included on the tour was the Little Giant Water Wheel Factory, circa 1872; the former Stone Mills Stage and Ferry Hotel, circa 1815, one of the County's earliest hotels; and beside the latter, an interesting barn complex, which originally functioned as the stableyard for the hotel. The tour of this complex was led by Ernie Margetson.

Dan Atkinson

PORT HOPE

Welcome to the AGM

We're eager to welcome ACO members to the April 15-16, 2000

Conference and Annual General Meeting (details of the conference program can be found elsewhere in this issue). Be warned – Port Hope and Cobourg are serious about hospitality. Please join us!

Our branch held its own Annual General Meeting on February 16, 2000. A presentation on Victorian Gothic – Ontario Vernacular Style was given at our AGM by guest speaker, Don Mikel. Don was thanked for his fascinating presentation and welcomed back to the area by incoming Branch President Sue Stickley. Past-president Bob Harrison presented the branch's annual Heritage Conservation Awards.

Bob and Bonnie Harrison also hosted our branch Christmas Party at the Butternut Inn. Once again it was an extremely enjoyable and well-attended membership event.

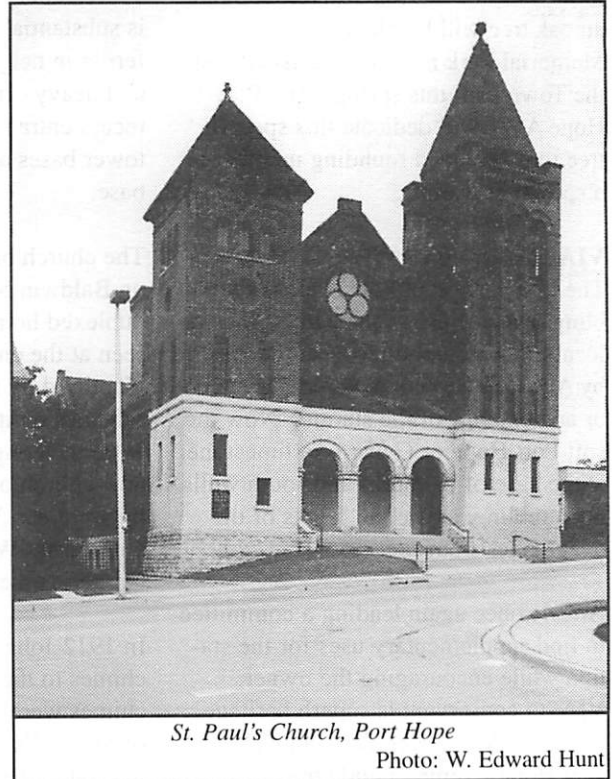
House Tour

It's early days yet – but most Port Hope House Tour attendees plan well ahead for this autumn event. Betty-Ann Knutson, House Tour committee chair, confirms that there will be 1500 tickets available sometime in late May or early June for the tour on September 30. There will be eight varied and interesting private homes on display as well as Port Hope United Church, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

If you've attended a tour in the past two years, you'll receive full details in the mail. If you haven't heard by the end of June, you can call (905) 885-7103.

Heritage Fund

For over 20 years the Port Hope Branch has assisted with restoration of



St. Paul's Church, Port Hope

Photo: W. Edward Hunt

designated buildings with loans and grants from its Heritage Fund. Now that Walton Street is a designated Heritage Conservation District, the branch is particularly encouraging applications from downtown building owners. An advisory committee vets the applications and recommends projects to the local branch executive. This fund started with matching seed monies from the Ontario government and the local branch, and through careful management has actually grown while assisting with many projects in Port Hope – including the successful Capitol Theatre restoration.

Trees, trees, trees

Our branch is involved in street tree programs in Port Hope in a big way. The municipal tree advisory committee is comprised almost completely of ACO members, and the town's co-operation is excellent. So, last fall when the tree committee members reported a shortage of funds for the program, the branch offered to help. A grant of up to \$3,000 was made on the condition that the Town would match the donation. They did, and as a result 26 new trees were planted in locations where large older trees had been removed in recent years.

In memory of Marion Walker Garland, an oak tree will be planted in Memorial Park near the bandshell and the Town Hall this spring. The Port Hope ACO will dedicate this special tree to its beloved founding member at a special ceremony.

VIA/CN Station

The train station at Port Hope is crumbling once again. In the early 1980s a local branch committee, spearheaded by A.K. Sculthorpe, restored the interior and exterior of the station. Now the soft Port Hope or Ganaraska limestone at the base of the north and south walls is crumbling, as are the bricks of the telegrapher's bay.

A.K. is once again leading a committee to find supplementary uses for the station while encouraging the owner, VIA, to conserve this superb heritage building. VIA's Ken Rose and The Port Hope Evening Guide have both been very co-operative so far. We hope to get this project underway this summer.

New Roof on Chapel

The lovely little chapel in Port Hope's Union Cemetery has a new roof. The local branch contributed to its repair. Designated by Hope Township, as a result of annexation the chapel is now located in Port Hope. It was built by "Yankee" Williams, in memory of his wife, in 1893.

Restoring St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

With a small but determined congregation, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church is the only church in Port Hope's Walton Street Heritage Conservation District. Now under restoration, with Chris Borgal as consulting architect, this 1906 "Richardsonian Romanesque Revival" church will host the Conference part of the AGM on April 15.

Fundraising has been continuous over the past three years, with the entire congregation involved. The local branch of the ACO has contributed financially to this building which is an important feature of the downtown

streetscape. The Walton Street façade is substantial, with square towers differing in height, arches of sandstone and heavy ornamentation, arcaded recess entrances into the sides of the tower bases and brick over a cast stone base.

The church began in an 1831 building on Baldwin Street which is now a duplexed home. This structure can be seen at the end of Church Street and identified by the two different paint schemes on its identical halves. In 1906 the congregation moved to the new church on Walton Street designed by architect W.A. Bond and built by contractors W.R. Chislett and T. Garnett at a cost of \$34,839.83.

In 1912 John Hume presented a set of chimes to the Town of Port Hope. The chimes were erected in the west tower of St. Paul's Church. Mr. Hume requested that the chimes be used for the delight and inspiration of the citizens of Port Hope. In her greetings to St. Paul's Church on its 150th anniversary, Mrs. J. R. Waldie recalled the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Port Hope in 1959. As the Queen's motorcade passed St. Paul's Church, "God Save the Queen" was played on the Church chime. Prince Philip looked up to the steeple and then turned to the Queen with a smile on his face at such a thoughtful welcome.

Sue Stickley

LONDON REGION

East London Fall Walking Tour

In conjunction with the Ontario Association of Architects' Architecture Week and the London Society of Architects, we held two Sunday walking tours of East London last September and October. About 30 people came out on each occasion to hear London Regional Art and Historical Museums curator Michael Baker and University of Western Ontario archivist John Lutman speak about the commercial history and architecture of Dundas Street, in the blocks east of Adelaide Street.

The walk began at the Banting House National Historic Site (designated as such last summer, and where Frederick Banting first wrote out the formula for insulin) at the corner of Adelaide Street and Queens Avenue. From there the walk proceeded along Dundas Street, the heart of what was East London. East London was in fact only a town for a few years before it was annexed to London in the late 1890s. With old photographs of some of the buildings in hand, Michael Baker was able to give us a further idea of what the street was like immediately after the construction of some of these buildings. Michael and John are to be commended for an extremely informative and successful walk.

Keith Bantock at the Annual General Meeting

Mentioned in the last issue of ACORN (Winter 1999) was the conservation report for the beautiful wall murals in the Shanly Town House on Piccadilly Street. As a follow-up to this report, we welcomed art conservator Keith Bantock to speak at our Branch's November AGM on the subject of conservation of murals in architecture. His presentation covered a number of projects with which he has been involved – from the restoration of a painting found on a wood wall in Nova Scotia, to the conservation of a theatre curtain in Woodstock. He also spoke of the search for a cleaning solution for the Shanly Town House wall murals. No solution yet, so to speak.

Heritage Resource Forum

Also in the last issue of ACORN, I wrote about the "Heritage Resource Forum" – a gathering of approximately 22 heritage-related groups brought together by city hall to discuss the state of, and examine the next steps for, heritage preservation in London. We have now had \$150,000 for heritage approved as a line item in the City of London's budget. Getting to this point has been a lot of hard work, yet at the same time an incredibly positive experience.

The 22 groups (from Fanshawe Pioneer Village and the London

Main Street Storeys:

Preserving the Legacy-Incentives and Challenges

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's Annual Conference

April 14, 15, 16, 2000 Port Hope, Ontario
With the ACO Annual General Meeting on April 16, 2000

Friday, April 14: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Opening Reception - Homewood, 188 Dorset Street W., Port Hope

Saturday, April 15: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Conference - St. Pauls Presbyterian Church, Walton Street
6:30 for 7:30 p.m. Dinner - Lent's Lane, 41 John Street, Port Hope

Sunday, April 16: 10:30 a.m. Annual General Meeting - Capitol Theatre, 14 Queen Street, Port Hope
12:15 p.m. Tree dedication to Marion W. Garland, Memorial Park near Town Hall
12:30 p.m. Lunch - Port Hope Town Hall
1 p.m. Bus leaves for tour of important Cobourg sites

Conference Registration:

Friday, 7- 9 p.m. at Reception & Saturday 8:15 – 9:00 a.m. at Conference

Main Street Storeys: Preserving the Legacy-speakers include:

- Philip Carter, Architect, Chair Advisory Board-Opening Remarks and Overview
- Nina Chapple, Planner, Hamilton-Wentworth
- John Stewart, Architect, Commonwealth Historic Resources Management Ltd. - Perth
- John Fleming, Planner, City of London
- Chris Borgal, Architect, Morrison, Hershfield, Ottawa
- Michael McClelland, Principal, ERA Architects, Toronto
- Rod Stewart & A.K. Sculthorpe, Walton Street Perspective-20 years after flood & fire

Also included: Walking tour of Port Hope main street and selected upper storeys (lunchtime)
Tour of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church restoration

Conference Registration:

@\$65.00 per person, ACO members (includes Sat. lunch)
@\$80.00 per person, non-members (includes Sat. lunch)
@\$25.00 per person, full-time student (includes Sat. lunch)

Dinner Sat Evening: @\$35 pp(cash bar available) Please select: Vegetarian ☐ Chicken ☐ Salmon ☐

Sunday Bus Tour: @30 per person (includes lunch)

Sunday Lunch: @\$5 per person

Please make your cheque payable to the ACO Port Hope Branch and mail to:
ACO Port Hope Conference, 16 Hill Street, Port Hope, Ontario, L1A 3H2

For additional information please call (905) 885-1344.
Late Registration (After April 1, 2000) \$75.00 members

Regional Children's Museum, to the Banting House National Historic Site; the ACO and the Heritage London Foundation to the London Middlesex Historical Society) met as a large group three times from April to June last year – each time led by a professional facilitator. With encouragement at each of these meetings from two city councillors that the city's interest in heritage was legitimate, everyone worked together to generate eight attainable goals for the sector as a whole:

- * to create a shared communications vehicle;
- * to increase marketing/cross promotional opportunities;
- * to share skills and resources between groups;
- * to provide common program themes;
- * **to increase financial support from the City;**
- * **to establish heritage resources as an important municipal priority;**
- * **to measure and report economic, social and other impacts of heritage resources;** and
- * to preserve/restore downtown sites.

Three of these goals (in bold) have already been, or are in the process of being, attained.

From July until the present a smaller loose ad hoc Steering Committee worked toward devising the terms of reference for a "Heritage Resource Sector Implementation Plan." This plan includes the request for proposal to hire a consultant to prepare a business plan, a socio-economic impact statement and a marketing strategy.

This process has always been open. The Steering Committee, as mentioned above, was formed from whichever organizations could make it to the various breakfast or evening meetings. After discussions in December, we agreed to formalize the structure of the Steering Committee, limiting it to nine groups (four museums and five preservation organizations), two city staff members and one city councillor (the latter three non-voting). After our fifth large meeting of all groups on January

13, we have added another two. Each is represented on the Steering Committee (ACO is one of them) by two individuals – one as a stand-in, the other the official representative and voting body. Any member of any heritage group may come to further Steering Committee meetings as the hiring process begins and the business plan is evaluated.

As far as we know, it is unique for a group or sector to be given this kind of budget without control from city hall. We are proceeding cautiously, conscious that we are blazing a trail for other groups and municipalities.

Alison Brown

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Sheave Tower Restoration

The summer months saw Phase 2 of the Sheave Tower restoration begin. The designated Sheave Tower, owned by Heritage Cambridge, is in the village of Blair in Cambridge. The two and one-half storey board and batten structure, attractive with its gothic windows and idyllic setting, sits among "a beautiful wetland ecosystem, rich in wild and aquatic life and a broad variety of plants, vegetation and trees."

Indeed, the property encompasses a Class II wetland, a cold water stream, and surrounding forest that includes black cherry, trembling aspen, cracked willow, butternut, hop hornbeam, and chokecherry. The tower, built in 1876, provided an additional 15 horsepower to the Carlisle (now Blair) Mill 300 feet across the road. The Blair Mill, built in 1846, is still fully operational as a corn grinding mill, using some of its original equipment. It is available for viewing on this year's Annual House Tour (more about that later!). The site was earth-bermed to direct water from the stream and dammed mill pond into the sluice way under the Tower, and down a flume which drove a turbine, shaft and wheel that turned a cable that stretched to the Mill.

Nick Hill, the heritage architect in charge of the restoration, began work on the foundations and structure in the fall of 1998. Phase 2 included rebuilding the stone wall on one of the creek banks, reconstructing an eroded bank, regrading, stabilization of the old dam ruins, and building a new bridge. Nick designed the new metal bridge to sit about 18 inches above the old dam, providing lovely views of the water rushing through the dam ruins.

Replanting some vegetation around the site, attaching bronze plaques on the bridge, and erecting interpretive signage will be undertaken in the spring.

Community partnerships have been encouraged. Nick Hill chose as the contractor Gord Kinzie, who lives close by. A local resident will be creating the sign. High school students from Jacob Hespeler High School did the finishing carpentry, such as the floor of the bridge, the louvered windows, and the structure of the sign. Heritage Cambridge received grants from LACAC and the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation and used some money from the Community Heritage Fund that was set up in order to purchase threatened properties. Later this year, we will have a ceremony to unveil the plaques.

Dickson Hill Heritage District Study

Dickson Hill is about to become Ontario's 56th Heritage Conservation District! Nick Hill, the City of Cambridge's consultant on the district study, wrote and rewrote the plan as comments came in from the owners of the 480 properties involved. On January 24, 2000 Council unanimously passed a motion to designate the district under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. The motion allows for the exclusion of properties of those that wish to opt out of the Plan, in the hope of satisfying those opposed.

From the start, some residents were upset, feeling their property rights were being infringed upon, and misinterpreting the voluntary guidelines as mandatory policies. A few vocal citizens mounted a campaign of misinfor-

mation, inflamed the press and their neighbours, and tried to thwart the process at all turns. Although there are quite a few excluded properties, 83 per cent of the residents are in favour. It is expected that some residents will opt back in, as they see the benefits for the area as well as for their neighbors who successfully apply for LACAC grants to upgrade their properties.

Heritage Cambridge was represented on the Steering Committee, which met with the consultant for almost a year. Our congratulations to the city, Nick Hill, and the Steering Committee and staff – they had the foresight to recognize Dickson Hill as a very important neighbourhood to conserve for future generations.

Heritage Cambridge's First Spirit Walk

In October, after a year's research and organization, and hundreds of volunteer hours, we put on a successful historical "tour" of eight notable persons that helped build this community. It was a guided, lantern-lit evening event, featuring actors from the Galt Little Theater dressed in period costume. The actors researched and wrote the monologues themselves. We had worked with the cemetery staff and Trinity Anglican Church Committee to have the actors stationed at the headstones. We modeled the tour after many others that are presented in this province (Ottawa, Kingston, Guelph, to name a few).

The initial story in the press caused an uproar. One woman, recently bereaved, complained bitterly about using the cemetery (even though the event was in the oldest part of the cemetery, well away from more recent interments). The result was that city staff uncovered a by-law that prevented use of the cemetery after dark, and stated there was not enough time to change the by-law so the event could run. Most of the Spirit Walks in Ontario are held in the evening, and two or three were held the same night as ours.

So, off to Council we went to ask for an exemption to the by-law, or at least permission to hold the event in the tree-lined path of the old park across the street. ("Only in Cambridge," your President was heard to say, on more than one occasion. No other group had to go before Council to run their event!). The TV cameras and the press were there in full force. In the end, we made at least 12 or 13 headlines and numerous more newspaper articles, and generated several radio interviews, many letters to the papers and calls to the mayor and councillors (from those for and against).

The result? We held the very well publicized tour among the trees in the park, had over 600 people attend from across Waterloo and surrounding regions, and the name Heritage Cambridge became well known! Our purpose was to educate the public, and with the number of people talking, reading, and listening about it, we certainly achieved our goal! Everyone, including the complainants, was satisfied. All who attended are looking forward to Spirit Walk 2000.

A Little Advice

I have found it helpful, before a matter goes before Council, to call the councillors in advance to discuss the issue. A lot of potential misinformation can be cleared up, and one can modify presentations to address specific concerns, so a well informed decision can be made. This worked well for us several times this past year, especially on fairly controversial issues.

Annual House Tour

On Saturday, April 29, Heritage Cambridge is running our fundraising Heritage House Tour. Call (519) 621-4461 for ticket information. The tour was sold out at least two weeks prior to the event last year, so get your tickets early!

Kathryn McGarry

WINDSOR

St. Clare Of Assisi Church

The word 'unique' has been greatly overused, but here is one instance where it can be applied without apology. A rare and beautifully realized Art Deco style church rises above the traffic on Tecumseh Road West near the southern edge of Windsor's commercial core. It is, indeed, a unique structure (see this issue's cover photo).

From a distance, its tall, slender steeple suggests Gothic affinities, but as you draw closer you'll discover no crockets and finials, but zigzag contours and angular recesses that speak the language, not of the 12th Century, but of the frenetic Machine Age of the 1930s.

An enigmatic Canadian engineer-architect by the name of Albert H. Lothian designed the church, its rectory, and everything found within from the light sconces, altar candlesticks, stations of the cross and pews, to the priests' vestments. A celebratory booklet on the history of the Parish of St. Clare of Assisi recalls that, on June 26, 1924, the Rt. Rev. Michael Francis Fallon deemed it necessary to establish a new parish, "under the patronage of St. Clare of Assisi." No doubt, when he chose this patron, the Bishop was mindful of the proximity of little Lake St. Clair (named for the sainted abbess by the early French explorer, La Salle, on her feast day, August 12, 1679).

His Excellency appointed a First World War chaplain, Rev. Major Edward Gordon Doe from Ridgetown, as the first rector. His role was to organize the new parish and to build a new church. Apparently he chose well.

While functioning in a wooden, makeshift, temporary building, Fr. Doe was making big plans and raising money for what would be the most unusual structure of its kind in Southwestern Ontario and beyond. A small fire on New Year's Day in 1929 should have warned of things to come, for just a few months later a devastating conflagration destroyed the first

church and underlined the urgency for a new house of worship for the 315 families in St. Clare Parish.

Father Doe and his imaginative architect, Albert Lothian, worked on the plans, and received the approval of Bishop Fallon for "a church, modern in design and, most important, modern in practical religious service; yet as ancient as the churches of the first Christian centuries."

No time was lost. By October 30, 1930, the land was acquired, the ground was blessed and the sod turned. Two months later, on February 1, 1931, the cornerstone was blessed. That the contractor proceeded post haste with his work can be attested to by the fact the first divine worship was held in St. Clare of Assisi Church on June 14, 1931, and the first wedding vows were exchanged the very next day.

Unlike the more familiar church plans, which call for a long central aisle leading the eye to the sanctuary, with flanking side aisles leading to secondary altars, St. Clare's layout focuses all attention on the Tabernacle, with clusters of pews radiating on three axes from the high altar. A description of the plan appears in the aforementioned booklet: "The structure of the church proper is that of a twelve sided figure, approximating an elliptical form with the long axis east and west, and not quite parallel to Tecumseh Boulevard; with the Sanctuary opening from the north side of the ellipse; and the two Naves, the main entrance, the Choirloft and the Tower, opening from the south side of the ellipse and looking toward Tecumseh Boulevard.

"The elliptical or main section...has a ceiling height of about ten feet higher than the rest of the structure. This increased height gives a Clerestory around the main section of the Church, which is filled on the east, south and west, with Stained Glass Leaded windows which give an abundance of light and contribute to the prominence of the Altars."

The result of this plan is that the altar rail is no more than 35 feet from anyone in the nave, and each person's view is unobstructed. Well, almost unobstructed. It seems that some concern may have been expressed about the interior appearing almost too theatrical, so a few pillars were introduced – not because of structural need, but for aesthetic reasons. Mr. Lothian designed these segmental columns to taper from top to bottom, so as to reduce their bulk at head level, while complimenting the angularity of the overall design.

The ceiling beams are the roof trusses that conceal air ducts, some of which are clad in polished aluminum. The Lothian-designed altar rail was wrought iron capped with aluminum, and a decorative iron grille in a Calvary Cross pattern separates the Winter Chapel from the nave.

The altar's six stone supports repeat the tapered form of the columns, and it stands in a geometrically recessed niche of Aztec inspiration, with architect-designed candlesticks and crucifix. Legend has it that Mr. Lothian was even responsible for the design of the original silk vestments, which were manufactured to his specifications in France.

Another unusual feature was the central ceiling light fixture high above the nave, which was a "parabolic reflector of unique design with a grouping of lights at its centre, with a large number of ripple glass mirror-louvres... arranged in such a way that the actual source of light is obscured." The louvres directed light to the diamond-shaped Stations of the Cross, painted in oil on canvas with aluminum numerals and placed high on the walls to permit their contemplation by parishioners from their seats. The images are further enhanced by the light from non-figural cruciform clerestory windows

Not to be ignored is the organ – a mighty Wurlitzer, allegedly secured from a Michigan theatre which was about to be demolished.

The exterior of St. Clare of Assisi is unmatched in the Middle West. The buff-coloured brick cladding, coped with aluminum, surrounds the entire edifice and rectory. The perimeter is broken by angular projections with pale stained glass windows. The recessed main portal replicates the form of the altar niche and embraces a traditional, terra cotta figure of the patron saint dressed as the abbess of her monastery, San Damiano, and holding her staff of office and the ciborium.

High overhead, the intricate masonry pattern becomes even more decorative as it culminates in an aluminum clad spire, looking for all the world like a space ship on the launch pad.

This is truly a great architectural site, and one that no visitor to Windsor should miss. But you had better hurry. The church is scheduled to be closed this year, and demolished next year. Our only hope is that the diocese might agree to turn it over to a Maronite Catholic congregation much in need of space, and anxious to give this elegant Art Deco landmark, St. Clare of Assisi, another opportunity to call the faithful to worship.

Late-breaking news: The Diocese of London and the Maronite Catholic rite have reached an agreement to sell St. Clare to the parish of St. Peter's Church (established in 1929). It is expected that St. Peter's will take possession of St. Clare sometime in June 2000. We thank those involved for reaching a solution to save this unique church from demolition. While the parish at St. Clare had, unfortunately, decreased over the years, the parish of St. Peter's is bursting at the seams. This is an ideal solution for all concerned.

To the Diocese of London, we say "Thank you for agreeing to a solution that will save a unique part of our heritage." To the parish of St. Peter's, "Welcome to your new home -- we wish you well."

Evelyn G. McLean

COBOURG

ACO Cobourg has been furiously active: a new newsletter (Cobourg Heritage, Vol. 1, No.1); a new grants program that will modestly assist owners of heritage properties with the expense of repair and restoration; a new set of note cards illustrating Cobourg's heritage houses; and a new scholarship for a young person wanting to enrol in Sir Sandford Fleming College's new course in heritage conservation.

We have also been busy trying to respond to this winter's crises at Barnum House – lack of funds for heating (supplied in the end by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, which owns the building), a drying up of funds generally and a dropping off of board members and volunteers. ACO Cobourg will be attempting to integrate Barnum House into its activities, holding its annual general meeting there in March and a lecture, by Thomas McIlwraith, the author of *Looking for Old Ontario*, in May. But all of this does not begin to meet the needs of "Ontario's most celebrated early dwelling," which deserves province-wide support.

The future of White Hall, an equally early and deserving building is still in question. But fresh alarms – its owners have recently applied for a demolition permit.

Bill Halewood

Kingsville Train Station

If you happen to find yourself in Kingsville (30 miles east of Windsor), you might behold what looks like, from a distant view, a beached whale in an open post-industrial wasteland. Upon closer inspection, it is a remarkable stone building

with a large curvilinear roof comprising turrets, gables and towers. This building is the former Kingsville train station built in 1888 by Hiram Walker of Windsor. It was designed by the well-known Detroit architectural practice of Mason and Rice in the Rustic Romanesque style. While quite small in area (about 1,500 square feet), it was built to welcome clientele coming by train from Windsor and Detroit to the Mattawa Hotel lakeside resort in Kingsville, also built by Hiram Walker. Upon disembarking, guests would travel a short distance south along a treed boulevard to the hotel.

There were many intriguing features about the building process, one being an appeal to local farmers to provide unusual stones for the walls. The result is like a stone sculpture of shaped protruding stones of many different colours. The original layout comprised separate ladies' and gentlemen's waiting rooms, a ticket office and a baggage room, a semi-circular covered porch to the west and a porte cochere to the north. In the large roof space was the station master's sleeping quarters. The interior was panelled in wood.

Over time, the railway and station were acquired by a number of different rail companies. The station closed in the 1980s. A number of valiant efforts were made to purchase and save the building, particularly by the Kingsville-Gosfield Historical Society. Eventually it was sold to a private party. Later, anxious to rid itself of the

building, this party was prepared to proceed with its demolition, with the materials to go to the contractor. At this time the Society for the Preservation of Kingsville Antiquities was formed and, at a cost of \$8,000, demolition was halted and SPRESKA was permitted to remove architectural features – roof soffit brackets, dormer and eyebrow windows, interior doors and trim. However, the slate roof was gone from the building and the interior slowly deteriorated. Weeds sprang up around the site. Hope of saving the building faded.

In 1995, the Essex Region Conservation Authority acquired the rail line and the station with the intention of converting the line into a recreational greenway from Windsor to Ruthven, and the train station to complementary uses such as a café, washrooms and interpretative centre.

In 1997, heritage architect Nick Hill was retained to inspect the building. The inspection revealed the building to be of architectural significance, in basically sound condition and with potential uses that could complement the proposed recreational greenway. In 1998, working drawings were prepared by Nick Hill and Larry Warren, architect-engineer of Windsor. In the fall of 1999, funding was obtained from the federal government and restoration finally began. In addition to the building restoration, the surrounding lands will be handsomely landscaped. The greenway will be opened in the spring of 2000.



Much credit for securing a new future for the train station goes to Ken Schmidt, Manager of the Essex Region Conservation Authority and staff members Chris Alsop and Richard Wyma (no longer with the ERCA). The Kingsville-Gosfield Historical Society and the Society for the Preservation of Kingsville Antiquities also played invaluable roles during the dark days when the very existence of the train station hung in the balance. Practically and spiritually, they kept hope for saving the building alive! As Ms. Whalen, local Member of Parliament, said during the funding ceremony, "this building was meant to stand."

Nicholas Hill

Unwanted Churches – with examples from Brant

A hundred years ago, it was not possible for people to travel more than a couple of miles to church. As a result, people who could agree on some sort of denominational formula built many small churches at a reasonable walking distance or at most a short buggy ride from home. Today their church-going descendants in automobiles have no problem in driving across a medium sized city or across a couple of rural townships to a centrally located building that suits their denominational tastes. So partly because of the automobile, fewer churches are needed.

A hundred years ago, to get off the farm, you had a choice of the law, medicine, teaching, or the ministry (or a labouring job, but that was just about as hard as staying on the farm). Today, a mere index-listing of jobs providing prestige, income, security, and reasonable hours runs into several pages. So partly because of increased vocational options, and the fact that clergy educa-

tional requirements have been raised while the level of remuneration has declined relative to other professions, fewer clergy are available.

A hundred years ago, there were quite limited options for getting some social life, some change from the tedium of everyday routine. Today, the options are almost unlimited. So while people "of faith" continue to attend church, those looking only for an outing find other options more attractive.

A hundred years ago in Canada, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists established their three churches in a given locale. Today there may be needed only a single United Church facility.

A hundred years ago, fundamentalist fervour would bring about creation of new sects due to a very small disagreement in interpretation (although it seemed at the time to be a large disagreement incapable of any solution short of total divorce). Today the fervour favours ecumenism.

So easier transportation, fewer clergy, more options for those on both sides of the pulpit, and the ecumenical movement have cut the need for church buildings. Many are old, underutilized, and expensive to maintain. And herein lies the rub: they are also often culturally, emotionally, and aesthetically significant to the community.

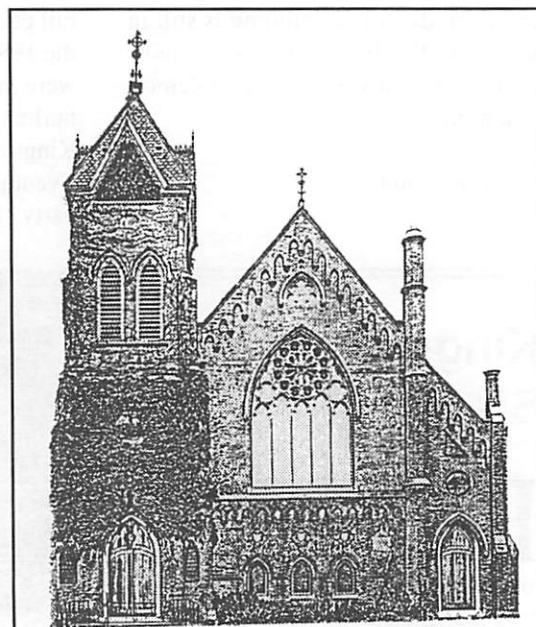
In rural Brant County, some small church buildings have found new uses as community halls. The Paris Plains Church is one of under a dozen cobblestone buildings in the region. It survives largely because it is a pretty place to have your wedding, especially appealing to those who want a "church wedding" but prefer to avoid too much familiarity with church interiors.

Farrington Independent Church is a relatively recent (1930s)

building, one of only two remaining Inghamite churches in the entire world. It has a beautiful setting at the top of one of the rolling hills that surround Brantford and its site in the Grand River Valley. A favourite site for weddings as well, the church has a congregation made up of a small number of wealthy local families (the kind whose ladies may still wear white gloves when they go into Toronto by train for a day's shopping).

The Mohawk Chapel was built by Joseph Brant for the loyalist people of the Six Nations when they came to Canada to live as independent allies of the Crown rather than live under the dangerous experiment with republicanism being tried in their ancestral homelands south of the border. It is a designated National Historic Site. And another nice place to get married. The Queen always visits it when she is in the area, because it is the only Royal Chapel on native-owned land in the world.

A former church on Market Street in Brantford was transformed into a furniture store. Another ambitious soul reincarnated it as a rather expensive restaurant. This didn't work out, so it is looking for a fourth incarnation. It



Brant Avenue United Church, Brantford
photo courtesy of Michael Keefe

has undergone so many changes that it is open to question as to whether there is anything of heritage value worth saving.

Park Baptist Church was designed by John Turner, arguably Brantford's most talented architect. The building is of polychrome brick modelled on Wells Cathedral. Four or five blocks from First Baptist, another John Turner church, Park Baptist, lost its people in dribbles until it was forced to "go out of business." It was given by its few remaining members to McMaster University, which did not want it and sold it to the highest (relatively low) bidder. A recording studio finally moved in, and things looked bright for awhile, but the recording studio has moved on so the building is looking for another tenant. It is frightening.

St. Basil's Roman Catholic Church is another John Turner Gothic Revival building. It used to have four priests on staff, but is down to one. It has superb acoustics, and an outstanding organ. There is debate presently going on as to the merits of augmenting its religious function with a wider community use by investing a large sum to restore the organ totally and acquire a concert grand piano. This would permit its use as an adjunct to the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts, a successful rebirth of a great, early 20th century movie house. A recent presentation of Messiah at St. Basil's demonstrated that it is an ideal venue for this sort of use.

Brant Avenue United Church and Zion United Church were too close for modern necessity, but the Brant Avenue structure is being reborn as a small upscale condominium complex that preserves the exterior appearance and the impact on the streetscape.

A millennial church at the corner of Queen and Wellington Streets bears the inscription "Wait till I come." For many years it has been the headquarters of the Family Counselling Centre of Brant. Millennial sects tend to be rather short-lived because they set a

definite date for the Second Coming, and have trouble justifying their continued existence when that fails to occur.

On the eastern outskirts of Brantford is a former United Church too close to other United Churches. It has a spacious site, plentiful parking, and relatively new ancillary wings. With these pluses, it has been successfully reborn as Theatre Brantford.

Brant's examples are probably typical. At the moment, we have a surfeit of churches resulting in unneeded buildings. Those that grow into new uses appropriate to their location and structure are reasonably safe. The rest are a continuing challenge to the heritage community. Many have been lost; many more will be lost. The Lutheran congregation integrally housed within Square One in Mississauga is probably one of the smartest in Ontario in recognizing and fitting into the transitory nature of modern society. St. Basil's attempt to re-create itself bears watching. Park Baptist's plight is not good for the blood pressure.

Michael Keefe

Dating Rural Houses

Although many dowager dwellings in the Ontario countryside proudly shout their ages by means of datestones, the great majority do not, which poses a problem for the historian or architectural buff wanting to document them. It is necessary then to fall back on assessment rolls, old letters, maps, family traditions or, in very rare instances, local newspapers to determine the year of construction for these rural landmarks.

In some parts of the province, however, there is another means of dating houses! This is the entirely unintended result of a question posed in the 1861

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have some spare time you'd like to fill? Are you interested in becoming more involved with the ACO? We have an opportunity for one or more volunteers to help out in the Toronto office. The location is central, the building historical, and the work interesting.

If you think you could help, or would like more information, please contact

Pat Neal, Office Manager at:
(416) 367-8075; fax (416) 367-8630;
e-mail: aco@on.aibn.ca

census. The officials responsible for designing the census were interested in knowing how many houses were under construction at the time the data was being gathered, so they headed one column, "Being Built." It is the last column on the page, the furthest on the right, in the "Personal" section of the record. An answer was expected in the simple affirmative, if applicable. Unfortunately, the instructions to the people gathering the information in the field were inadequate. Up to ten percent of the assessors opted for an alternate understanding of "Being Built" common at the time. They thought the question was, "[When was this house] Being Built?" and, as a result, asked people when their houses were constructed. Answers like "1832" and "1855" were duly recorded.

This anomaly was drawn to my attention by A.J.H. (Jack) Richardson, former senior historian at Parks Canada, Ottawa, who called it a "Rosetta Stone" for anyone interested in documenting the development of architectural styles across the province. Although neither he nor I have tried to identify all the census tracts where this interesting information exists, it has been found in townships as widely scattered as Markham (York Co.) and Osgoode (Carleton Co.), Hillier (Prince Edward Co.) and North Easthope (Perth Co.). Certainly, the misunderstanding was not confined to

one area. Mr. Richardson estimates a total of 10,000 buildings might be documented across all the aberrant tracts.

To illustrate the anomaly, consider part of enumeration district No. 11 for Markham Township that covered both sides of Markham Road north from present-day Steeles Avenue to the south edge of the then village of Markham. A detailed map of the area exists that is almost concurrent with the census: H.F. Walling's 1862 plan of York County showing the names of landowners, the boundaries of their properties and, in many cases, the location of their houses on the land. While the map is not essential to the analysis, it makes the process of linking 19th century data with the realities of the present day much easier.

Of the 12 houses in this section of Markham Road for which the assessors gathered dates of construction in 1861 (seven on the west side, five on the east), only five survive today (three on the west side, two on the east). In this booming area road-building and road-widening as well as the development of subdivisions have combined to result in only two of the 12 houses standing on their original foundations now.

The Town of Markham conducted a heritage inventory in 1982 that identified all five surviving houses as significant. Their years of construction were estimated then and can be compared with the census data:

7060 Markham Road. In 1982, its year of construction was estimated as circa 1850. In 1861 it was described as a one storey brick house owned by John Daniels built in 1851.

7205 Markham Road, now relocated further back on the property. In 1982 its year of construction was known from a datestone as 1853. In 1861 it was described as a one storey stone house owned by William Robb, built in 1853.

7555 Markham Road. In 1982 its

period of construction was estimated at 1851 to 1875. From its appearance there have clearly been many additions made to the original house. In 1861 it was described as a brick-and-frame one storey house owned by Jacob Raymer built in 1853.

8100 Markham Road, now relocated across the street. In 1982, its year of construction was estimated at circa 1840. In 1861 it was likely the house described as a one and one-half storey frame structure owned by Christian Henrick and built in 1845. The form of the house is still one and one-half storeys today, and its architectural appearance fits a mid-1840s construction date, but it is now brick-clad.

8150 Markham Road, now relocated 12 miles north at Markham Road near Elgin Mills Road. In 1982 its year of construction was estimated at 1840 to 1860. In 1861 it was described as a two storey brick house owned by Chauncey Crosby built in 1845.

While it would be a mammoth job to match up all the data in the 1861 census with those houses that survive today, this sort of study could be done best under the auspices of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario or the provincial government in part-

nership with local governments and heritage-minded bodies. It would be expedited by having ready access to the kinds of corroborating information that is found more often at the Archives of Ontario than in the local library or museum. Such research, however, is no substitute for local investigation, documentation and photography.

Stephen Otto

Book Review

The Architecture of a Provincial Society: Houses of Bruce County, Ontario 1850-1900. By Ruth Cathcart. Red House Press: Warton 1999. ISBN 0-9681375-1-2. \$39.95.

Ruth Cathcart is an amateur architectural historian who has previously written on furniture and on the domestic architecture of Grey County. Her handsome little account of the buildings of Bruce County comes, sadly, only with monochrome plates by Charles van den Ouden. Handsome though they are, this is a pity in that some of the gardens included are very interesting, and

Come along on the Geranium Walk

The London Region Branch will be holding its 27th Annual Geranium Walk in the Piccadilly Street area of London on Sunday, June 4, 2000 from 1-5 p.m. One of the houses on view will be the Shanly House with its splendid wall murals.

Tickets are \$12, \$10 for ACO members.
For further information and ticket purchase,
call Alison Brown (519) 672-2496
or Maggie Whalley (519) 433-9567.

a house without a garden is a poor thing. Judge Klein's house and garden in Walkerton were written up in garden magazines at the beginning of the 20th century. Job Carr's botanical elysium in Bruce Township cries out for a proper history. And Cathcart's account of the wonderful octagonal cottage in Southampton badly needs setting in the context of the cult of octagonal buildings in the 19th century. In her research, however partial some of it seems, she has gone beyond the familiar accounts of the county's history (Roberston and Brown) to include material from town and township histories – primary texts that are not always easy to find, even in local libraries.

Her three criteria for inclusion are age, aesthetics and authenticity. Architectural history might have been another. Although there is a good deal of attention to the families that owned the houses, there is almost no information here about the history of building in the county. This is rather like discussing painting by discussing only the patrons, not the painters. Who made the elegant traceries of the upstairs hall windows and the door surrounds? Were these "off-the peg" things from mills, or individually crafted? From what pattern book did the familiar plans come? Were there itinerant stonemasons and framers? Why were belvederes so popular? And, in the case of the Ussher/Farewell House in Walkerton, for instance, why did the first owner (presumably a descendant of the famous bishop who thought the world began in 4004 BC) take his design from a house in the Carolinas?

One of the startling things about the county is that it is so long. The drive from its southern boundary to Toronto (120 miles) is shorter than to its tip at Tobermory – longer than the southwest counties of England. While the size of the county makes representativeness in a book like this difficult, it does strike me that Cathcart includes a disproportionate number of stone houses. Charming as they are, they don't represent the majority of houses south of

Heritage Cambridge

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Saturday, April 29, 2000

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tickets \$15 including light refreshments

Six places to visit, including the 1846 Blair Mills, still in operation as a corn mill; two Ontario stone cottages, one designated and built c. 1858 and the second c. 1870. Two turn of the century homes, one four square red brick and the other clap-board. And a stone farm house, immaculately restored, beautifully furnished and with a modern but sympathetic extension. There will be a church to tour and the trade-mark bonus visit too.

Tickets available by mail from:
 Ms. E. Miller, 26 Oak Street, Cambridge, ON, N1R 4K6.
 Please add \$1 per order for handling and make cheques payable to:
 Heritage Cambridge.

Need more information?
 Call (519) 621-4461 or 622-2998
 Tickets are limited to 750 and all sold out in recent years.

Hwy. 21 (the most populous part of the county) where stone was regarded as what you used if you couldn't afford brick.

What emerges from this book is the lesson that poverty is (on the whole) the friend of conservation. Houses in towns – such as the Hay/Schwalm house in Mildmay or "Linden Hall" in Kincardine – have suffered the horrors either of add-ons or (more frequently) verandahs stripped away. It would be good to think that the use of historic photographs in a book such as this might, like Peter Stokes's classic book on Niagara-on-the-Lake, encourage owners to restore their houses to former elegance.

Douglas Chambers

*Douglas Chambers gardens at
 Stonyground near Walkerton.*

Letter to the Editor

The steady deterioration of ecclesiastical architecture is a sad reality in so many communities. Because this finely crafted stock of architecture of a bygone era is frequently compromised by unfortunate renovations and interventions, I was glad to read the current issue of ACORN beginning the series of issues focusing on ecclesiastical architecture.

I look forward to learning more about this matter in ACORN.

Ann M. MacLennan, Chatham

Deadline for
 branch contributions to
 Summer ACORN:
April 17

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(as of December 31, 1999)

We have the honour of acknowledging those listed below who contributed to the success of our 1999 campaign. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank those who supported our Gala Dinner last November.

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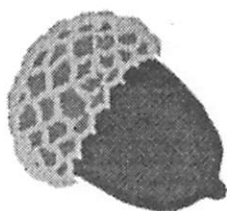
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